

MONTHLY BULLETIN

PENNSYLVANIA • DEPARTMENT OF WELFARE

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HARRISBURG, PA.

DECEMBER, 1933

GOVERNOR PINCHOT ON COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL RECOVERY ACT

From his Message to the General Assembly, November 13, 1933

RECOVERY

“THE people of the United States, long in despair, are taking a new grip. The great depression is lifting and must continue to lift.

“President Roosevelt’s National Recovery Program must succeed.

“The safety and welfare of all our people demand it. Therefore it is the duty of every individual and of every governmental body to cooperate wholeheartedly with the National Administration in this great enterprise.

“Accordingly, even though State Governments are legally exempt, I have endeavored in every way practicable under our constitution and laws to bring the Government of this Commonwealth into full harmony and cooperation with the Federal Recovery Act. In this I am confident of the general support and approval of our people.

“The National Recovery Act provides, first, for Federal public works to be constructed wholly at public expense; second, for Federal contributions for unemployment relief not to be repaid; and, third, for Federal participation in self-liquidating public and semi-public works, thirty per cent to be contributed outright by the Federal Government and seventy per cent to be repaid by the borrower.

“Because of the constitutional and other limitations on the borrowing power of the Commonwealth and its subdivisions, and in spite of the most vigorous efforts to secure for our people the full benefits of the National Recovery Act, we have not yet been able to obtain our proper share of Federal funds.

“But if legislation suggested by and worked out in cooperation with the Federal Public Works Administration can be passed, the limitations which have kept these benefits from our people can be removed. Bills for this purpose will be laid before you.”

OUR BUILDING PROGRAM

By Alice F. Liveright, Secretary of Welfare

THE task of providing new buildings to meet the normal expansion of Department of Welfare institutions has had its ups and downs in recent years. Back in 1927, a general building program of fifty million dollars was outlined for the Department, and a bond issue for that amount was submitted to the voters of the State. The voters defeated it, probably because of a feeling by legislators and others in responsible positions that the construction costs could be gradually met from current revenue. There was a tacit understanding that ten millions each biennium would be made available for construction until the fifty million had been completed.

Then came the depression which has altered many understandings, tacit and otherwise. The last appropriation for construction for the Department was for ten millions and was made by the Legislature of 1931. Nearly half of this amount, four and a half millions, was abated when the first Talbot Act was passed. Owing to the financial emergency, the 1933 session of the Legislature was unable to make any appropriation to this Department for construction.

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INVESTING IN CITIZENSHIP

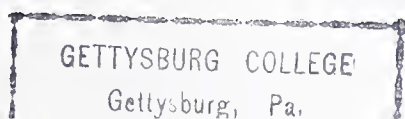
By Arthur Dunham, Sec’y, Family Welfare and Relief Div. and Child Welfare Div., Public Charities Association of Pennsylvania

MOTHERS’ Assistance is one of the outstanding contributions which Pennsylvania has made in the field of public welfare. Established in 1913, the Pennsylvania Mothers’ Assistance Fund now operates in 55 of the 67 counties of the State; 7,755 mothers with 22,887 children receive its monthly grants paid out of State and county appropriations of some \$4,000,000 a year.

More important than any mere statistics, it is one of the most humanely, intelligently, and effectively administered public relief jobs in the United States.

Mothers’ Assistance is an expression of the State’s concern for childhood; it is an investment in future citizens. Poverty breaks up homes and that “home life” which is “the highest and finest product of civilization.” Mothers’ Assistance prevents these broken homes in the cases of the widowed mothers and the fatherless children who come within the circle of its protection.

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EDITORIAL

By Alice F. Liveright, Secretary of Welfare

RECENTLY our Bulletin devoted an issue to the value of the professional social worker. Let it not be thought that the Welfare Department is unappreciative of the volunteer social worker!

The outstanding case work service for which the Department is responsible is the work of Mothers' Assistance. In 55 counties boards appointed by the Governor administer this work. These unpaid boards, each one composed of seven women, control an appropriation of \$4,115,938 to the widowed mothers and fatherless children of their respective counties. This money is paid out to keep the State's fatherless children in their homes with their own mothers. The citizens of Pennsylvania have come to realize that the preservation of our children's own homes is one of the most valuable contributions they can make to the next generation.

The trustees form the backbone of the Pennsylvania system. In all counties they are the educational forces interpreting the work of the fund to the county. Their minimum program of service includes a close personal contact with the family and a building up of a relationship of mutual trust, confidence and cooperation on the part of the family, the trustee and the worker—a safeguarding of the health and the well-being of mother and child.

Through the intimacy of their relationship, the trustees bring to the families helped vastly more than the actual money grant. They inspire new ideals of living, new standards of health, education, industry and recreation.

It is the board members of the Mothers' Assistance Fund who can appraise food relief standards as compared with poor relief or even unemployment relief.

Mothers' Assistance Fund families are an asset to the community. Monthly they receive "money." They know the satisfaction of paying their own way. No food orders mere slips of paper for them. They spread their budget as do all independent, self-respecting families—for rent, food, clothing, fuel, recreation and they pay as they go. Grocers, landlords, shopkeepers need have no fear of piling up credit when they open Mothers' Assistance Fund accounts. The Commonwealth is justly proud of its Mothers' Assistance Fund boards of trustees—of its mothers who are justly considered the proper guardians of their children's destinies.

FATHERLESS CHILDREN BELONG WITH THEIR MOTHERS

By Blanche E. Stauffer, State Supervisor of the Mothers' Assistance System

THERE is no substitute for a mother. It is a wise and proper investment in future citizens for the State to make possible the preservation of the natural home for children who have lost their fathers rather than to allow those homes to be broken up by poverty and the children placed in foster homes and institutions.

Three successive nation-wide conferences on child welfare have enunciated this principle: The preservation of family life is the foundation of all child care. One of the aims of the Children's Charter issued by the White House Conference on Child Health and Protection called by President Hoover in 1930 is as follows:

"For every child a home and that love and security which a home provides; and for that child who must receive foster care, the nearest substitute for his own home."

1. What is the Mothers' Assistance Fund?

Mothers' Assistance is a cooperative project of State and county governments for care of dependent children in their own homes with their mothers.

2. How is the Fund Provided?

At the biennial meetings of the General Assembly, the Legislature appropriates a sum of money divided among the counties according to relative needs. To have the benefits of this Act, the commissioners in each county must set aside a like sum to be drawn upon for the care of those children who are eligible to the benefits of this system of relief.

3. How is the Fund Administered?

The Governor appoints a board of trustees composed of seven women who serve as volunteer trustees in each county. The responsibility of deciding to whom aid shall be granted and to what extent resides with this board. They also interpret the principles of Mothers' Assistance to the community.

4. Can all Dependent Children be cared for through this System of Relief?

No. The Mothers' Assistance Act restricts those who may receive benefit to the children of a mother whose husband is dead or permanently confined to a hospital for the mentally ill. The group is further restricted by the decision as to whether the mother is a competent guardian and it is to the advantage of these children to remain under her supervision.

5. Is the Appropriation Adequate?

In September, 1933, 22,887 children, representing 7,755 families in 55 counties were receiving assistance. At the same time approximately 2500 families, eligible under the law, were not receiving aid because funds were not available.

6. What is the Nature of the Family Grant?

The law provides an allowance of \$20 per month for the first child and \$10 per month for each additional child under the age of 16. Therefore, the mother having three children may receive \$40 a month. The trustees in deciding upon the grant consider the necessary expenses of the family as well as the number of children.

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NINE YEARS AS TRUSTEE

By Louise N. Brown, President of Lycoming County
Board of Mothers' Assistance

AFTER nine years as a Mothers' Assistance Fund trustee and with some knowledge of other forms of relief work, I feel that the Mothers' Assistance contains certain elements that make it an ideal plan on which to work. The laws that cover Mothers' Assistance are definite, with distinct rules that cover eligibility and grants worked out on a scientific basis. Disposition of the fund is placed in the hands of a Board of Trustees in each county with power to make decisions. It seems to me that that is one element that has made for its success. After all, it is the citizens of a community who are the most interested in it's welfare. There must be that local contact to interpret the work to the community.

These women Trustees have given time and thought to the work unstintedly, serving without pay year after year. Their loyalty has been fostered by the State Administration, who have in turn helped and consulted with them in every change of policy. There has grown up almost the feeling of belonging to a fraternal order among the many county boards of the Mothers' Assistance Fund Trustees.

Most of the counties, except perhaps the very small ones, employ case workers. This has been a matter of gradual growth and education. No matter how efficient the trustees may be or how willing to give their time, the only effective way to rehabilitate the families is by the use of a capable social worker.

During the eight years in which an executive has been employed in our County, no family who had been on our rolls, has ever been referred back by a social agency. It seems to me that this proves that the families on our Mothers' Assistance Fund, because of the adequacy of the relief and the work and supervision given to them, have developed into the type of families that are no longer a drain on the community.

FATHERLESS CHILDREN

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7. Is there any better or cheaper way of caring for the children than by Mothers' Assistance?

No. For the charge of her family of dependent children, the mother is the best and cheapest caretaker the State can employ; the best because she gives the nurture and discipline that only personal affection can supply; the cheapest because she does not engage in the work for profit. On the average it costs the community about \$29 a month to keep a child in an institution, and about \$11 to \$17 to keep a child at home with his mother.

8. How do we determine how much the monthly grant per family shall be?

By making up a family budget, such items as rent, fuel, food and clothing are added together to determine the minimum amount needed each month to keep a family in health and working efficiency; the Mothers' Assistance Fund should then give a grant equal to the difference between the income and the budgetary need.

9. How long is a mother entitled to receive Mothers' Assistance?

Until her youngest child reaches his 16th birthday. However, in the majority of instances, the family will have reached a self-supporting basis before this time. Then the grant is cancelled.

SAVING THE WEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

By Lillian Strauss, Trustee of Montgomery County
Board of Mothers' Assistance

DID you ever travel by automobile from one end of Pennsylvania to another; and by this rapid survey, become aware of its incredibly varied beauties, its complexity of industries, its luscious farms and its countless mines? It is amazing that one State can contain so much of wealth and beauty!

But if you have, that abundance must have created a restlessness at the thought that, so near it all, there is squalor, poverty, starvation and unhelpt, needy children. If it does, just remember that Pennsylvania really believes her children to be her greatest potential wealth, and for one group of them, at least, accepts complete responsibility.

For the children of widowed mothers, the State provides education and a livelihood in their own homes under the Mothers' Assistance Fund Act of 1913. This is no niggardly charity, grudgingly given. It is a public service, generously met for the best good of the Commonwealth.

It may be of interest to describe the actual process by which the Board of Mothers' Assistance in one county reorganized its work. As a preliminary it decided that it needed a highly skilled and intelligent trained worker.

Her first work was to present to the Trustees, and enter on the records, a brief word picture of the current situation in every family receiving a grant. This was done after a careful study of all records and visits to every family. Both staff and board feel now that they really know the families whom they advise and assist.

Arrangements for a complete health examination of every family which had not had one recently, was the next step. One worker was assigned to a study of all available health and mental hygiene opportunities within the County and in a nearby large city. Thus all family plans are now being made with the health needs of its members as a first consideration. Mothers with underweight children, or a history of tuberculosis are taught to plan their food-budgets with especial care, and to build up the strength of their growing youngsters.

All health problems are noted on a card file indexed by families, so that every situation can be watched continuously. A school file is maintained also, with the grades and progress of every child. Thus mental tests, special ability tests, or vocational guidance can be obtained as soon as the need arises.

The staff has drawn up a brief mimeographed form on which the details of all cases presented for application or readjustment, can be quickly filled in. At meetings these forms are given to each trustee, and no longer is every conference interrupted with "How many children did you say, Miss Smith?" or "In what township do they live?" Every minute of conference time goes to the consideration of the family need. All staff members are present at every board meeting, in order to give additional details in regard to any family under discussion.

This board feels an obligation toward every widowed mother who applies. For the mother who does not come within the scope of Mothers' Assistance every effort is made to see that she obtains help from some organization not limited by legal restrictions.

To see families left penniless and forlorn, brought back to a sense of security and happiness; to see public money spent wisely for a great public good, are joys which come to all of us who are privileged to serve under the Mothers' Assistance Fund Act.

INVESTING IN CITIZENSHIP

(Continued from Page 1)

THE STRENGTH OF MOTHERS' ASSISTANCE

Wherein lies the strength of Mothers' Assistance in Pennsylvania? At least six sources of its strength and effectiveness may be discerned.

1. The first is State leadership. At the head of the administration stands "a State Supervisor, qualified by training and experience, who shall be a woman." In twenty years there have been but three Supervisors, all appointed on the basis of their professional qualifications as public welfare administrators. From the State Office is derived the essential spirit of the Mothers' Assistance Fund and the standards of service and administration which obtain.

2. Local administration balances State leadership. At the basis of the administration are the devoted volunteer services of nearly 400 women Trustees. In 32 counties the Trustees are reinforced by the services of paid executives and visitors, almost all of whom are qualified skilled workers.

3. The equal sharing of financial responsibility by State and counties sets up a partnership with the Governor, Legislators, and the Department of Welfare on one side and the County Commissioners and Mothers' Assistance Trustees on the other. Mothers' Assistance has a broad base of support.

4. Social case work rescues Mothers' Assistance from the category of a "dole." Discovering the real needs of the individual family; determining the relief grant on the basis of a family budget; constructively helping the family to build a wholesome family life—these are the characteristics of social case work.

5. Cash relief is administered. There are no "store orders." The families are presumed to have the honesty and intelligence to spend money. Trustees and workers know their families. The mothers justify the confidence reposed in them.

6. Administration by technically qualified public officials is buttressed by citizen interest and support. An unofficial Statewide Committee on Mothers' Assistance, the Public Charities Association of Pennsylvania, and other civic groups are alert to the needs in this field, and ready to interpret these needs to the Legislature and the public when enlarged appropriations or new legislation are required. Mothers' Assistance is unquestionably the best understood and most popular form of public welfare service in Pennsylvania.

TOMORROW—?

Mothers' Assistance is an organism rather than a mere piece of governmental machinery. Also it deals with human beings. Where there are life and growth there are problems.

When a Ten Year Program of Child Welfare for Pennsylvania was drafted in 1930 by the child welfare forces of the State, under the leadership of the Child Welfare Division of the Public Charities Association, four main objectives were set forth for Mothers' Assistance. These were: (1) More continuous educational effort, under the leadership of a Statewide citizens' group. The Statewide Committee on Mothers' Assistance has been created in answer to this need. (2) Appropriations large enough to wipe out the "waiting list" of eligible mothers for whom there were no funds. There is still a waiting list, due largely to present economic conditions;

MOTHER AND SONS

By a Member of the Mothers' Assistance Staff

MRS. Horne faced realities that January night after her husband's funeral. Influenza had worked swiftly, and she had had no time to think of what the future held for her three sons and herself.

Mary Horne had faced other hard experiences in life. Now they seemed trivial as compared with the present ordeal. Bravely she had found work outside the home to earn for family needs in order that her husband might learn a trade. Eventually this trade would give them the safety for which they yearned and the opportunities for their children which had been lacking in their own childhood. But how could she manage singlehanded earning all that was needed for her boys?

Before the combination of hard work, inadequate income, and discouragement had disheartened her entirely, she became a beneficiary of the Mothers' Assistance Fund. She continued to earn money to supplement her grant, but the necessity became less driving. When we first knew her, George was 9, Harold was 7, and Hugh but 5 years old.

Mothers' Assistance helped the mother support her children for nine years. At the end of this period, mother and boys wanted to make their own way and allow the grant to be used for another family of little children.

With pride the mother told of George's responsible position. One might have thought that she also had graduated from high school on the night when Harold received his diploma. As a little boy, he had a paper route and the newspaper office became a very interesting place. As years went by, he assumed more and more responsibility. In high school, he had an opportunity to test his ability on the editorial staff of the high school paper. Naturally, the linotype machine became an intriguing object and as we left the family, the mother had high hopes of his learning the trade. Hugh had reached high school.

With health good, courage unlimited, they looked forward to maintaining their home by their own efforts.

but the State's biennial appropriation to the Mothers' Assistance Fund has increased from \$2,750,000 to \$4,115,938 since 1930. (3) Making the average grant more adequate to the needs of the families was a third problem. (4) Extending the benefits of the law to other groups beyond widows and wives of permanently committed mentally ill men was another need. Action in regard to these last two problems awaits economic recovery. Obviously the present is no period of expansion.

However, the Governor and the Legislature reasoned clearly when they *continued the Mothers' Assistance appropriation for the present biennium without any decrease*. To hold the line, to preserve the minimum standards of decent family life for this group with their long-time problem of widowhood and orphanhood is the need of today. What changes of policy and procedure may be required by a rapidly changing situation, no one can say. Four counties have felt unable to match the State's current appropriations dollar for dollar, as required, and tragically, Mothers' Assistance has been lost for the present to those counties. This reduces the total having this service from 59 to 55 counties. In spite of this the leaders in this field have not been convinced that the 50-50 matching basis should be modified; holding that the equal partnership of State and counties has been one of the most solid of the foundation stones of Mothers' Assistance in Pennsylvania.

HUMAN VALUES IN M.A.F.

By Emma G. Bovaird, President of the McKean County Board of Mothers' Assistance

CAN you think what it means to a family to have the father taken? Can you feel with that mother surrounded by her little children facing the future with the living gone, the counsel and advice of the husband gone? How can she carry on? How can she face the double duty—earn the living and keep the home?

Perhaps the home is just paid for, it has been a struggle, left little for anything else. Perhaps there is still some mortgage on it. Perhaps there is a small insurance, but there are the bills for sickness, burial, family expenses that have been accumulating while father was ill. Or they may have no home at all, just renting, and now what?

Many of these families face utter ruin, not because they have not been thrifty; quite the contrary, they have been working with might and main to make a home and maintain certain standards of living for their children. They may have struggled desperately to give the children advantages of education and social life.

Then comes Death. The mother is already doing her part keeping the home, tending the children, feeding, clothing them, looking after their school and social life, a full day of care and responsibility. She is stunned by death, frightened of the new responsibilities, balked by the difficulties of jobs that pay.

Into this situation Mothers' Assistance would like to step at once, but there are so many things to think about! Does the family own property? Is the home mortgaged? Will the interest on the mortgage plus taxes and insurance exceed what that family should pay per month for rent? Do they have more than four hundred dollars in cash or stocks or bonds? These are the material qualifications. The real test of the eligibility of the family rests solely upon the character and ability of the mother to rear her children.

With all of these qualifications met, the family will be welcomed at once to the Mothers' Assistance group if funds are available. If not, the application will be filed, to be considered in the order of its filing.

With Mothers' Assistance a regular income is assured each month, ranging from twenty dollars for one child, with ten dollars for each additional child, to fifty dollars for a family of four children. The mother can plan her budget and arrange for the time needed for outside work, perhaps three days a week to supplement the allowance, for Mothers' Assistance is just what its name implies, assistance, not maintenance, and the family are left with the privilege and self-respect of earning part of the living.

The interested trustee becomes a welcome friend and adviser in the family. It is both relief and help to a mother just to talk over her problems. And what of the trustee? It warms her soul with fellow-feeling; and adds to her stature as a woman and a citizen of the State of Pennsylvania.

There is no compensation, as such, for the Trustee. Expenses, yes—travelling expenses. But there is compensation, out of all proportion, in the satisfaction of knowing that some child has been helped to a happy life, that the State has gained a good citizen, and that some mother has been lifted up and strengthened.

The County Commissioners find their reward in the same satisfaction, judging from the splendid and ready response they always make to the request of the trustees that they match the allowance made by the State. Certainly this is true of the Commissioners of McKean County.

CUMBERLAND VALLEY INSTITUTION

By William C. Sandy, M. D., Director, Bureau of Mental Health, Pennsylvania Department of Welfare

IN the comprehensive building program for institutions for mental patients in Pennsylvania, there is no more important project than the Cumberland Valley State Institution for Defective Delinquents. The present day trend in penal affairs is toward the increasingly careful study of the individual offender, his physical condition, personality, emotional make-up, and intelligence. With the resulting better understanding of the delinquent, it is expected that treatment will be more intelligently applied and more successful rehabilitation brought about.

The Cumberland Valley Institution was authorized in the session of 1927 but no appropriation became available until 1929, only a sufficient sum then being set aside for preliminary planning. The site near New Cumberland, containing approximately five hundred acres, has been State-owned for a number of years. The legal commitment procedure has been established by amendment to the Mental Health Act, including methods of transfer and recommitment from penal and correctional institutions and direct commitments from the Court of those accused of crime or being tried for crime. The plans have been sufficiently developed so that building operations can be started promptly as soon as funds become available.

Being a very special kind of institution, it is important to understand clearly the type of person eligible for admission. The increasing use and better understanding of formal intelligence tests, combined with psychiatric and social studies, have made it possible to differentiate more clearly the quantitatively subnormal, the mentally deficient or more commonly termed feeble-minded from the qualitatively defective, usually called psychopathic or constitutional inferior. The defective delinquent is a mentally deficient person who has been charged with or convicted of crime, or who has known criminal tendencies. The defective delinquent is "feeble-minded" in the sense of arrested mental development from birth or an early age. He has never really "grown up" mentally and his condition is due to a certain lack of mind as contrasted with a breaking down or disordered function of the mind. The Cumberland Valley Institution will receive such persons, imbeciles or morons, who have committed crimes or who have shown criminal tendencies, and who have, after careful psychiatric and social studies, been determined to be unfit for return to community life. Such individuals, if their condition or behavior warrants it, may be detained for years or even life without regard to any limited sentence. If released at all, it will be possible to keep them under parole supervision, to be returned if their behavior makes it necessary.

An institution for defective delinquents has definite requirements in respect to buildings and equipment. Experience has demonstrated that a basic section must be strongly constructed and equipped much as any penal institution. Many of the patients will have been long habituated in crime, some of them with characteristics of the most difficult types of prisoners. Some of these men will require, for a time, if not more or less continually, the various devices needed for the retention of ordinary convicts. For some of them will become desperate or at least more difficult to manage when they realize the significance of their changed status and the fact that a limited sentence no longer applies. Experience has also demon-

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CUMBERLAND VALLEY

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strated, however, that as the institution grows older, there will be an accumulation of lower grade mental defectives, accustomed to orderly routine, quiet and more easily controlled. For this increasingly large group, less secure quarters and those more of the type seen in civil institutions for mental defectives, will be sufficient.

A third type of quarters will be for the farm colony groups, selected and trained individuals long enough under observation to have demonstrated that they are trustworthy and capable of living under almost normal conditions. It is expected that from this group there will be a limited number who will eventually qualify for return to the community under a system of parole supervision.

The institution for defective delinquents is by no means purely custodial. As in other institutions for mental defectives, school and training facilities of various kinds are needed. In the plans for the Cumberland Valley Institution are included academic school rooms for work including about the fifth grade, and shops which will provide the opportunity for instruction in trades and the carrying on of profitable industries. Adequate recreation and exercise facilities in the way of a combination assembly hall, chapel and gymnasium, and two athletic fields are important features of the plans.

The usual service departments will, of course, be provided. It is probable that much of the feeding will be by modified cafeteria system.

A well equipped hospital building will furnish also the centre for the preliminary observation and examination of all newly admitted patients. This will be the administrative centre so far as medical activities are concerned.

Taking everything into consideration, the Cumberland Valley Institution should prove to be one of the most useful in the Commonwealth and should promote greatly the general welfare of our citizens. The delay in building this new institution, furthermore, has in the final analysis been beneficial in according an opportunity for the most careful planning and for the constructive criticism of many authorities.

OUR BUILDING PROGRAM

(Continued from Page 1)

Although for the present the building program has come to a standstill, the needs of the Department have not stood still. In the two years since the abatement of its construction appropriation, the population of the State has increased by a million and a half. Applications for admission to the State's various institutions have also increased and their aggregate population is 1,600 more than it was two years ago. The State stands responsible for a vast family of defectives and delinquents. They constitute a group of more than 27,000 men, women and children, a fair sized city in themselves. The State cares for them in some 28 institutions.

Some institutions such as prisons and reformatories have no choice in the matter of accepting new tenants. They must take care of all prisoners sentenced to them by the courts. In others, such as medical and surgical hospitals, it is possible to draw the line when a certain degree of overcrowding is reached and to say that no more patients can be accepted.

The cessation of all further expansion of State institutions has resulted in one of two alternatives; lamentable overcrowding, such as is found in our prisons and reformatories, or the growth of long waiting lists of appli-

cants for certain types of care. Early in November, there were 2,600 names on the waiting lists of the State institutions for the feeble-minded.

In an effort to break the vicious circle of the depression, the Federal administration has passed the Federal Public Works Act which offers cooperation with the states in the construction, reconstruction, alteration and repair of numerous types of public work including public buildings. Under this Act, the State of Pennsylvania is encouraged to resume its interrupted building program as a patriotic act, and under most favorable conditions. The Federal Government will grant on approved projects 30 per cent of the cost of labor and materials and will loan money for the rest of the project.

Given precedence over all other business, on the first day of the special session, November 13, Senator Scott introduced Senate Bill Number One, which authorized the State to avail itself of such funds. Of the three or four projects which the bill specifically recommended, the Cumberland Valley State Institution for Mental Defectives stood near the top of the list. This institution was authorized and formally established as far back as 1927. The need is urgent. The existence of such an institution might have gone far to relieve the situation at Eastern Penitentiary and helped to prevent the recent riots. Not only would the transfer of mentally defective prisoners from Cherry Hill have relieved the overcrowding, but it would also have simplified the problem of prison discipline and removed a group whom it is very difficult to handle when mixed in with the normal run of prisoners.

Senate Bill Number One mentions other pressing needs of the Department, "additional buildings for and improvements to buildings of State mental hospitals and other welfare institutions." Almost all of the State's institutions need development and expansion. In several conditions have reached the point where they are a menace.

Take the case of a State hospital established nearly 20 years ago, and housing over 1,500 patients and employes. There is no real kitchen and the food for this big family is prepared in a dark, overcrowded basement room. Also there is no power house. The boilers for heating this large plant are housed under a shed.

Another urgent need is a separate place for cases needing special study and care, such as epileptics. The State has one colony for epileptics at Selinsgrove, established in 1917. It accommodates only 378 men and boys, and the State makes no special provision for epileptic women except those that require treatment in a mental hospital.

In resuming its building program at this time Pennsylvania would reap a three-fold satisfaction. It would be doing its part to cooperate with the Federal administration in a courageous effort to put our citizens back to work and end the depression. It would be providing work for its own citizens, most of whom have lost their jobs through no fault of their own and who have admirably met the past years of hardship; finally, it would be meeting the institutional needs of that great family of unfortunates for whom it has accepted responsibility.

Senate Bill Number One has the backing of the administration, and is a basic part of the State's plans for meeting the winter's unemployment problem. In his message to the General Assembly, the Governor emphasized the importance of State cooperation with the National Recovery Program. Senator Scott's bill removes constitutional limitations which would prevent this State from securing—to quote the Governor, "our proper share of the Federal funds."

Senate Bill Number One deserves the whole-hearted support of every public spirited citizen.